

WOMT Summary for June 7, 2011

The WOMT met and discussed the following:

The Smelt Working Group reported no recommendation for delta smelt or longfin smelt at this time and will continue to monitor salvage, survey data and hydrological conditions. The Working Group estimated that the overall risk of entrainment was low given the distributional data from recent surveys and believes that, based upon what is known of Delta conditions and delta smelt distribution, a modification of Project operations to protect delta smelt is not yet warranted.

On Thursday, 6/2/2011, the Projects (and WOMT) were notified by NMFS that the OMR limit of -3,500 cfs could be relaxed to -5,000 cfs. Because the reported chinook and steelhead loss densities are below all trigger levels in Action IV.2.3, DOSS advises that the projects continue to operate such that OMR flows be no more negative than -5,000 cfs.

DOSS also advises that implementation of the 1:1 I:E ratio (required under Action IV.2.2 from June 1 – June 15) continue to be implemented. DOSS advises that compliance under Action IV.2.2 be measured by a 14-day running average of inflows to exports (as for I:E implementation under Action IV.2.1); for tracking purposes a progressive daily average will be reported until a 14-day average is available.

NMFS accepts the advice from DOSS and determines that managing CVP/SWP operations is consistent with the intended implementation of Actions IV.2.2 and IV.2.3 and sufficiently protective of listed species present in the Delta at this time.